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MEMO TO: Title I Authorized Representatives/Coordinators/Teachers
FROM: Laurie Matzke, Division Manager, Student Support & Innovation
DATE: September 28, 2015
RE: 2015 North Dakota Exceptional Educator Award

The Office of Federal Title Programs is excited to announce a new Title I award program focused on recognizing exceptional educators who work in a Title I program. This new program will allow the state to recognize multiple Title I educators who contribute to raising the academic achievement of at-risk youth. This awards program replaces the "Outstanding Title I Educator" award.

Federal law under Section 1117 (3) "Awards to Teachers" states: A state educational agency may reserve funds made available under section 2113 to recognize and provide financial awards to teachers in a Title I program that consistently makes significant gains in academic achievement in the areas in which the teacher provides instruction. Therefore, nominees will be evaluated on whether documentation is presented that they have contributed to increased student achievement. Selected recipients will receive a \$5,000 grant award to use in their Title I program.

Minimum Eligibility Criteria

- Must be currently employed by a North Dakota public school district
- Must be an educator who works in a Title I Targeted Assistance or Schoolwide program
- Must have contributed to raising the academic achievement of students served in the Title I program
- Must fully complete all sections of the application

Selection

The North Dakota Title I Committee of Practitioners will assist in selecting the award recipients from the nominations received. The Committee of Practitioners includes North Dakota representatives from the following: administrators, school board members, parents' associations, the private sector, teachers, early childhood educators, universities, vocational/adult education, business and industry, and migrant education. Applications will be evaluated on a school's or district's plan to locally recognize their exceptional Title I educator if selected for the award.

Instructions

- Complete the *Exceptional Educator Application*
- Complete all information requested in the general information section.
- Complete all information requested in sections A, B, C, and D.
- Submit the completed application to Shauna Greff at sfgreff@nd.gov in the Office of Federal Title Programs by **October 29, 2015**.

If you have any questions or need clarification regarding the award, please feel free to contact me at lmatzke@nd.gov or (701) 328-2284. Thank you for your participation in the program.